defining, for each feature, a plurality of tasks necessary to implement the feature;

linking each task with its corresponding feature; and

entering data associated with a selected one of the plurality of tasks into a graphical user interface associated with the selected task.

27.   The method of claim 26, further comprising:

selecting a graphical user interface displaying data associated with a task based on the feature associated with the task.

28.   The method of claim 26, further comprising:

storing the features, tasks and data in a relational database; and

linking the tasks and their associated data with their associated features by assigning a key to each feature, task and datum.--

Remarks

By way of this Amendment, claims 15 to 28 are pending. Claims 1 to 14 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections issued in the Office Action dated August 13, 2001 are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-14, and requests examination of new claims 15-28.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of November 28, 2001. Applicant submits that new claims 15-28 reflect the subject matter discussed during the interview as overcoming the prior art of record. Therefore,

Applicant further requests that (absent the application of a rejection(s) based on prior art not currently of record) the present application be passed to issuance.

The present Amendment is submitted four months after the mailing date of the outstanding Office Action, and therefore the fee of $110.00 for a one-month extension of time is included herewith. Although Applicant does not believe any other fee is required for the submission of this Response, the Office is nevertheless authorized to deduct any fees necessary from Deposit Account No 50-1283.

Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns related to the present application, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: December 13, 2001

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Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

[0025] FIGURE 3 illustrates as a further application an expanded hub and spoke, feature centric model, deriving from a project, 1. Two features, 11a[,] and 11b, are illustrated, with engineering tasks, 21a[,] and 21b, quality assurance task, 23a[,] and 23b, and technical publications tasks, 25a[,] and 25b. To be noted are the engineering subtasks, 21ab, 21aa, [21ba] 23bc, and [21bb] 23bb.

[0027] As show in FIGURE [4] 3, all engineering tasks 43, QA tests, 45, and technical publications, 47, are linked back to their associated features. With this feature – centric system, critical decisions such as feature prioritization, resource allocation, and test planning are easily justifiable. Moreover, any Release Manager user can easily determine the development, testing, and documentation status for a given feature. When each of these areas is 100% complete for each feature, the product is ready to ship.